



Hobart Showground

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## Planning failure lets down school kids

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The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (RAST) is calling on the state government to get involved to protect the Jordan River School Farm which has been ordered to remove its animals almost immediately and relocate the school in the medium term.

Chief Executive Officer Scott Gadd says the Government needs to urgently address apparent planning issues that have caused the fiasco. "The State Government's drive to cut red tape should perhaps start here.

"The school has been in the same location for many years, and does an invaluable service to often disadvantaged youngsters who are exposed to some wonderful career opportunities in the agricultural sector," said Mr Gadd.

"The RAST works closely with the school and can vouch for the work it does as a training ground for agricultural careers. In a state where industries are falling one by one, agriculture still has its best years ahead of it. Youngsters can achieve meaningful and life long careers in this sector in anything from science to animal husbandry

"If reports are true that the school has been told to get rid of its animals, and then find another school site, it's an absolute indictment on the planning system. In the middle of the school year this will be highly disruptive to the school and its students."

The RAST has a close association with the school, and utilises its students as part of their training to assist in animal husbandry during the Royal Hobart Show.

"There seems to be a lot of buck passing at the moment, but someone at state, council or agency level needs to take a leadership role and ensure the school continues operating where it has for many years, doing the great work of introducing young Tasmanians to meaningful jobs and careers in rural Tasmania.

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